

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10

L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 AGRE-00 AID-05

CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01

STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 CEA-01 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /119 W
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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2774

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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FOR IO/IEP-WOODBURY AND EB/OT/GCP-SLATTERY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNCTAD, PORG

SUBJECT: UNCTAD'S INVOLVEMENT IN ACTIVITIES NOT OPEN TO ALL
MEMBERS

1. IN EFFORT NOT TO STIMULATE DEBATE ON THIS ISSUE BUT TO
MAKE OUR POSITION CLEAR, GROUP B COUNTRIES HAVE AGREED TO DROP
THIS MATTER AS SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA ITEM, BUT WILL MAKE STATE-
MENT OF PRINCIPLE IN PLENARY UNDER AGENDA ITEM 9(C) - OTHER
BUSINESS. GROUP B COORDINATOR (MONTGOMERY) WILL MEET WITH
BUREAU TODAY IN EFFORT TO ARRANGE THAT STATEMENT IS MADE SOON,
POSSIBLY AS EARLY AS TOMORROW.

2. USDEL HAS PARTICIPATED IN DRAFTING GROUP WHICH HAS DEVEL-
OPED TEXT THAT IS CAREFULLY BALANCED TO REFLECT CONCERNS OF
ALL GROUP B MEMBERS. ALTHOUGH IT HAS NOT YET BEEN APPROVED
BY FULL GROUP B MEMBERSHIP, WE THINK IT LIKELY THAT GROUP
WILL BE READY TOMORROW TO APPROVE DRAFT TEXT WITH PERHAPS
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SOME MINOR CHANGES. WE THINK TEXT IS IN KEEPING WITH OUR

POSITION PAPER ON THIS QUESTION, AND UNLESS WE HEAR OTHERWISE BY OCT. 8 AT 9:30 A.M., GENEVA TIME, WE WILL ASSUME THAT TEXT IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE DEPARTMENT.

3. BEGIN TEXT:

UNCTAD'S INVOLVEMENT IN ACTIVITIES
IN SUPPORT OF ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AMONG
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES,
AND THEIR FINANCIAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS
(SECOND DRAFT OF GROUP B STATEMENT)

I HAVE A STATEMENT TO MAKE ON BEHALF OF GROUP B CONCERNING UNCTAD'S INVOLVEMENT IN ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND THEIR FINANCIAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS. SOME ASPECTS OF THIS QUESTION HAVE ALREADY BEEN DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH WITH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER GROUPS.

GROUP B SUPPORTS THE PRINCIPLE OF ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AS WE MADE CLEAR AT NAIROBI AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 92 (IV). WE ARE PLEASED TO NOTE THE POSITIVE STEPS FORWARD THAT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAVE TAKEN RECENTLY. UNCTAD HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN SUPPORTING THIS WORK.

THE MODALITIES OF THIS SUPPORT, HOWEVER, CAUSE US SERIOUS CONCERN, AND RAISE QUESTIONS OF PRINCIPLE, AS WELL AS ISSUES OF CORRECT BUDGETARY CONTROL. WE HAVE ALREADY INDICATED SOME OF OUR CONCERNS IN A LETTER FROM THE THEN CO-ORDINATOR OF GROUP B TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF UNCTAD DATED 7 JULY, 1976. I WOULD REQUEST THAT THE COMPLETE TEXT OF THAT LETTER AND THIS STATEMENT BE RECORDED IN THE OFFICIAL RECORDS OF THIS BOARD.

I NOW WISH TO HIGHLIGHT A FEW OF OUR PARTICULAR CONCERNS. GROUP B HOLDS TO THE CENTRAL GUIDING PRINCIPLE, FOLLOWED BY THE UN AS A WHOLE, THAT ANY PAYMENTS MADE OUT OF THE REGULAR BUDGET OF ANY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION MUST BE SUPPORTED BY A CLEAR AND SPECIFIC BUDGET AUTHORIZATION. IN THE UNCTAD CONTEXT, THIS WOULD ENTAIL, AS A FIRST STEP IN THE PROCESS, A RESOLUTION OF EITHER A MAIN COMMITTEE OR OF THE BOARD ITSELF.

IT WAS AND REMAINS OUR VIEW THAT GENERAL ASSEMBLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RESOLUTION 3362 (S-VII) DOES NOT EMBODY ANY BLANKET AUTHORITY TO DISPENSE BUDGETARY FUNDS ON MEASURES OF SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN STRENGTHENING AND ENLARGING THEIR MUTUAL CO-OPERATION. IN OUR VIEW, FUTURE SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE UNCTAD CONTEXT SHOULD BE GUIDED, INTER ALIA, BY THE PRINCIPLE THAT THERE MUST BE APPROPRIATE PARTICIPATION OF OTHER REGIONAL GROUPS AND FULL INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION TO ALL MEMBERS

ON ANY MEETINGS FUNDED FROM THE REGULAR BUDGET. IN THIS CONTEXT, BY "APPROPRIATE PARTICIPATION", WE MEAN THAT SUCH MEETINGS SHOULD IN PRINCIPLE BE OPEN TO ALL UNCTAD MEMBERS AND SHOULD RESULT FROM SPECIFIC DECISIONS IN WHICH ALL MEMBERS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PARTICIPATE.

EARLY INFORMATION SHOULD ALSO BE MADE AVAILABLE AS TO THE SCALE AND SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING MEETINGS, PROPOSED BY THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OVER THE MEDIUM TERM, AS WELL AS INFORMATION ON APPROPRIATE CONTRIBUTIONS TO COSTS ENVISAGED BY THE GROUP OF 77 ITSELF, IN THE SPIRIT OF COLLECTIVE SELF-RELIANCE.

WE ARE NOT CONFIDENT THAT NORMAL BUDGETARY PRACTICES HAVE BEEN FOLLOWED IN THE PAST IN EVERY CASE AFFECTING THE DEGREE OF SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE WHICH SHOULD BE AFFORDED TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THEIR EFFORTS AIMED AT STRENGTHENING AND ENLARGING THEIR MUTUAL CO-OPERATION. WE VERY MUCH REGRET THIS. THIS MAY HAVE RESULTED IN PART FROM THE LACK OF CLARITY OF THE TERMS OF SECTION 6 OF RESOLUTION 3362. THEREFORE, CLARIFICATION SHOULD BE SOUGHT, AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE, IN THE INTEREST OF ALL GROUPS. THE INTERPRETATION OF THE SCOPE OF THE PARTICULAR TERMS EMBODIED IN RESOLUTION 3362 SHOULD LOGICALLY FALL WITHIN THE PURVIEW OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, WHICH HAS OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY MATTERS.

SO THAT THE BOARD AND THE FIFTH COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY CAN CONSIDER THIS QUESTION EFFECTIVELY, WE REQUEST THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF UNCTAD TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO THE BOARD AND TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION ON THE ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY UNCTAD AS A RESULT OF SECTION 6 OF RESOLUTION 3362, AND THE EXPENDITURES INCURRED. THIS SHOULD INCLUDE THE COST OF SUPPORT AFFORDED TO REGIONAL GROUP MEETINGS. OTHER THAN NORMAL GROUP COORDINATION MEETINGS HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH SPECIFIC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNCTAD MEETINGS. BY "COST", WE INCLUDE BOTH DIRECT COSTS AND THE OPPORTUNITY COSTS OF STAFF TIME. WE REQUEST THAT THIS INFORMATION BE SUPPLIED TO THE BOARD DURING THE FIRST PART OF ITS PRESENT SESSION, AND TO UN HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK IN TIME FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE BUDGET OF UNCTAD BY THE ACABQ AND THE FIFTH COMMITTEE.

PENDING RESOLUTION OF THIS QUESTION BY THE COMPETENT AUTHORITIES, WE BELIEVE THAT UNCTAD OPERATIONS SHOULD CONFORM TO NORMAL BUDGETARY PRACTICES GENERALLY APPLICABLE TO THE UN SYSTEM. END TEXT.

4. COMMENTS: AS A RESULT OF STRONG PITCH FROM USDEL, DRAFTING GROUP AGREED TO PUT "AND" INSTEAD OF "OR" IN THIRD SENTENCE OF FIFTH PARAGRAPH. THIS APPEARS TO US TO BE CRUCIAL POINT IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN GROUP B

STATEMENT ALONG LINES OF GENEVA GROUP PAPER. IN RETURN,
WE HAVE AGREED TO ACCEPT INCLUSION OF PHRASE "IN
PRINCIPLE" IN SAME SENTENCE TO ACCOMMODATE THE SWEDES AND
OTHERS WHO WANT TEXT TO ALLOW FOR THE CONVENING OF
EXPERT GROUPS WITH RESTRICTED MEMBERSHIPS. USDEL RAISED
POSSIBILITY OF INCLUDING REFERENCE IN PAPER TO OUR CON-
CERN THAT PROPOSALS FOR STUDIES AND DOCUMENTATION BE SUB-
MITTED FOR APPROVAL OF FULL MEMBERSHIP OF APPROPRIATE
UNCTAD BODY. WHILE SHARING OUR CONCERN, THE REST OF
GROUP B PREFERRED TO REFER MORE GENERALLY IN THIS PAPER
TO "MEASURES OF SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE," AND TO RAISE
THIS AND OTHER SPECIFIC MATTERS IN THE FIFTH COMMITTEE OF
THE UNGA. IN ADDITION TO 5TH COMMITTEE, JAPANESE WANT
MATTER REFERRED TO JOINT INSPECTION UNIT IN NY.
WE ASSU

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC PROGRAMS, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976GENEVA07845
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760378-0847
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761074/aaaacqlqa.tel
Line Count: 176
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <11 MAY 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNCTAD'S INVOLVEMENT IN ACTIVITIES NOT OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS
TAGS: PORG, UNCTAD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006